

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, reserving the right to object.

I have a simpler solution here, and I have already mentioned it.

The White House has denied my ability to meet with one Ninth Circuit judge who just got confirmed. Let me meet with the next two, and then we will UC these. We will UC these nominees whom Senator WHITEHOUSE has been trying to move forward tonight.

I also want to mention to my colleague from Rhode Island that I am certainly more than amenable to working with him on a principle that, I think, all Senators should agree on—all of us—to strengthen this institution, whether you are a Democrat, a Republican. That is this simple idea, which I thought existed here because I have certainly been able to do it: If a judge is up for confirmation, a circuit judge, and if you are a Senator representing one of the States in the circuit and that judge is going to have enormous power over your constituents for life, we should, as a general rule, as a general principle, say always: Of course, you get to meet with that judge. Of course, you can do your constitutional advice and consent duty.

I would be for it for any Democrat who wants it if there is a Republican. Again, I talked to some folks from the Trump administration today. They said that they always offered that. So maybe there is a misunderstanding. I don't want to say that my Senate colleague from Rhode Island is not right or those guys. I don't know. That is what they mentioned to me.

I just think, as a principle, every Senator here should agree with it. Why wouldn't you want to do that?

Like I said, until today, I have met with every single Ninth Circuit judge whom we voted on in my entire career here. Now, it has been a relatively short career, but this is really important to the people I represent because that court is really important to the people I represent. The Ninth Circuit so frequently gets the law wrong as it relates to Alaska, and it negatively impacts my constituents. This is important.

So I object to this date certain request, but as I mentioned, if I can meet with these—two more—Ninth Circuit judges, Senator WHITEHOUSE can come down here and UC these two Court of Federal Claims judges, and I think he can move it. It is a real simple ask.

And the fact that the White House Counsel hasn't even called me back—a U.S. Senator trying to do his constitutional duty, advice and consent of the Senate? The Senator from Rhode Island and I are of the Senate.

So why don't we work on this principle that, if there is a nominee, a circuit judge nominee, and if a Senator from a State in that circuit wants to meet with that nominee—to do his constitutional duty—that we should all agree to do that no matter who is in the White House. I would agree to that principle in a heartbeat.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I think we have concluded this matter for the evening, and I am sorry that it has ended this way because Mr. Bonilla and Ms. Lerner are essentially collateral damage in a fight that does not involve the Court of Federal Claims at all. This involves a dispute between the Senator from Alaska and the White House, whom I do not direct and whom I do not speak for.

Instead of keeping it within the confines of the Ninth Circuit, it has now spilled over to the Court of Federal Claims, and these two completely unrelated individuals are continuing to have their lives interfered with by being kept in the traffic jam for a principle that, in my view, was never followed in the previous administration. I mean, for Pete's sake, if they were not going to even let us have our official time with a circuit court judge, the idea that we were going to get private meetings is, I think, imaginative in the extreme.

I just regret that it has come to this pass. I regret that we are at 159 obstructed nominees backed up. I regret that we have been forced to file cloture twice as much as that first group of Trump's nominees, in his first year—and there were some real beauties there, I have got to tell you.

With that, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. SMITH). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant informa-

tion is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Arlington, Va.

Hon. ROBERT MENENDEZ,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 21-63, concerning the Navy's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Greece for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$6.9 billion. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

JEDIDIAH P. ROYAL,
Acting Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 21-63

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Greece.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment* \$5.4 billion.

Other \$1.5 billion.

Total \$6.9 billion.

Funding Source: National Funds

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

Four (4) Multi-Mission Surface Combatant (MMSC) Ships.

Five (5) COMBATSS-21 Combat Management Systems (4 installed, 1 spare).

Five (5) Vertical Launch Systems (VLS), MK 41 (4 installed, 1 spare; 8 cells per set).

Two hundred (200) Rolling Airframe Missiles (RAM) BLK 2 (84 installed, 10 test and training rounds, 106 spares).

Five (5) MK 49 Guided Missile Launcher Systems (4 installed, 1 spare).

Eight (8) RAM BLK 2 Telemetry Missiles.

Thirty-two (32) Vertical Launch Anti-Submarine Rocket (ASROC) Missiles (VLA) (12 installed (3 per ship), 8 test and training rockets, 12 spares).

Sixteen (16) 7.62mm M240B Machine Guns with ammunition (8 installed (2 per ship), 8 spares).

Thirty-two (32) MK-54 All Up Round Lightweight Torpedoes (16 installed (4 per ship), 16 spares).

Non-MDE: Also included are additional single, VLS cells for VLA; ordnance; testing; training; follow-on support; TRS-4D radars; Common Anti-Air Modular Missile (CAMP); Common Anti-Air Modular Missile-Extended Range (CAMP-ER); Naval Strike Missile (NSM) RGM-184B and launchers; MK 46 Lightweight Upgrade to MK 54 Lightweight Torpedo; torpedo containers; Recoverable Exercise Torpedoes (REXTORP) with containers; Exercise Torpedoes (EXTORP) with containers; Expendable Mobile A-size Anti-submarine Warfare (ASW) Training Targets (EMATTs); Fleet Exercise Section (FES) and fuel tanks to be used with MK 54 conversion kits; air launch accessories for fixed wing;